
U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

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ANTIMONY IN THE THIRD QUARTER 1997

Prices for most forms of antimony declined slightly during the third quarter of 1997. The New York dealer price for antimony metal, published by *Platt's Metals Week*, was \$1.05 to \$1.10 per pound at the beginning of the quarter and \$0.98 to \$1.05 per pound at the end of the quarter. The average price declined 12% from that of the prior quarter, to \$0.97 per pound.

The price of high-tint antimony trioxide, published by *American Metal Market*, started the quarter at \$1.30 to

\$1.45 per pound and ended the quarter at \$1.05 to \$1.25 per pound.

The price for clean antimony sulfide concentrate, published by *Metal Bulletin*, started and ended the quarter at \$18.00 to \$19.00 per metric ton unit. The price for lump antimony sulfide ore (60% antimony content) began the quarter at \$19.00 to \$20.00 per metric ton unit and ended the quarter at \$18.50 to \$19.50 per metric ton unit.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ANTIMONY STATISTICS 1/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

	1996	1997		
		First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter
Production:				
Primary smelter 2/	25,700	6,430 r/	6,220 r/	6,820
Secondary	7,900	1,220 r/	1,200 r/	1,090
Imports for consumption:	37,600	10,500	10,000	6,600 3/
Ore and concentrate	1,000	296	429	60 3/
Metal	18,300	4,360 r/	4,200	1,870 3/
Oxide 4/	18,300	5,820	5,420	4,670 3/
Exports:	5,270	1,350	1,130	765 3/
Metal, alloys and scrap	462	197	165	89 3/
Oxide 4/	4,810	1,160	960	666 3/
Consumption of primary antimony	13,600 r/	3,240	3,190 r/	3,130
Price: Average cents per pound 5/	146.58	100.71	109.85	96.66
Stocks end of period 6/	11,200	11,300	11,600 r/	10,200

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits, except prices.

2/ Nearly all smelter output is trioxide.

3/ Data for July and August only.

4/ Antimony content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.

5/ New York dealer price for 99.5% to 99.6% metal, c.i.f. U.S. ports.

6/ Producer and consumer stocks.

TABLE 2
INDUSTRY STOCKS OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY IN THE
UNITED STATES 1/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Type of material	1997 2/		
	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter
Metal	4,310	4,300 r/	2,470
Oxide	3,690	3,570	4,140
Other 3/	3,340	3,690	4,600
Total	11,300	11,600 r/	10,200

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Estimated 100% coverage based on reports from respondents who held 96% of the total stocks of antimony at the end of 1996.

3/ Includes ore and concentrate, sulfide, and residues.

TABLE 3
INDUSTRIAL CONSUMPTION OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY 1/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class of material consumed	1996 r/	1997 2/		
		First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter
Metal	2,060	507	519 r/	448
Oxide	11,400	2,720	2,660	2,670
Other 3/	131	12	15	15
Total	13,600	3,240	3,190 r/	3,130

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Estimated 100% coverage based on reports from respondents who consumed 81% of the total antimony in 1996.

3/ Includes sulfide and residues.

TABLE 4
INDUSTRIAL CONSUMPTION OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY, BY CLASS OF
MATERIAL PRODUCED 1/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Product	1996 r/	1997 2/		
		First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter
Metal products:				
Antimonial lead	1,760	246	165	W
Other 3/	1,350	332 r/	385 r/	520
Total metal products	3,110	579	549 r/	520
Nonmetal products:				
Ceramics and glass	1,030	215	251	251
Other 4/	1,660	260	322	308
Total nonmetal products	2,690	475	573	560
Flame-retardants:				
Plastics	6,830	1,440	1,360	1,370
Other 5/	931	125 r/	100	87
Total flame retardants	7,770	1,570	1,460	1,450
Total reported	13,600	2,620 r/	2,580 r/	2,530
Full industry totals 2/	--	3,240	3,190 r/	3,130

r/ Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Metal products: Other."

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Estimated 100% coverage based on reports from respondents who consumed 81% of the total antimony in 1996.

3/ Includes ammunition, antimonial lead, bearing metal and bearings, cable coverings, castings, sheet and pipe and solder.

4/ Includes ammunition primers, pigments, and plastics.

5/ Includes adhesives, rubber and textiles.

TABLE 5
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ANTIMONY, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Country	1996	1997					
		First quarter	Second quarter	June	July	August	Jan.-Aug.
Ore and concentrate:							
Bolivia	221 r/	--	--	--	--	--	--
China	473	257	231	138	15	--	503
Other	310	38	198	83	6	39	282
Total	1,000	296	429	222	21	39	785
Metal:							
Bolivia	153	2	--	--	--	--	2
China	13,500	3,680	3,670	924	1,040	517	8,910
Hong Kong	1,620	307	159	119	20	--	486
Kyrgyzstan	1,240	117	--	--	--	--	117
Mexico	1,330	220	313	85	59	34	626
Peru	--	--	--	--	181	--	181
Other	421	32	56	6	8	8	104
Total	18,300	4,360	4,200	1,140	1,310	558	10,400
Oxide:							
Belgium	1,080	324	436	--	239	27	1,030
Bolivia	2,480	622	909	--	226	277	2,030
China	7,730	2,780	1,960	--	1,410	1,040	7,190
Guatemala	183	319	232	--	113	33	698
Kyrgyzstan	150	134	216	--	50	66	466
Mexico	3,150	640	739	--	221	308	1,910
Russia	--	--	15	--	--	197	212
South Africa	2,860	799	732	366	109	307	1,950
Other	718	201	175	57	41	13	428
Total	18,300	5,820	5,420	424	2,400	2,270	15,900
Grand total	37,600	10,500	10,000	1,780	3,730	2,870	27,100
Other antimony compounds (gross weight)	63	24	32	--	9	--	65

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census. Antimony content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.